Remarks

The applicants have corrected the dependency of claim 4. Claim 4 has also been amended to provide a proper introduction to the use of the term atoms, which has been defined in the specification. The term atom is used in a software environment to describe an elementary software component or event. In this case, the slides can be broken down into animation events, known as atoms which are represented by indicia in the containers. The applicant has included such a definition in paragraph [0010], which is believed to overcome the Examiner's objections to the specification and claims.

New claims 12 – 14 have been directed to the bulldozing embodiment, where the containers push other containers out of the way when they have equal time properties (Please see Figure 9, step 180).

As noted in paragraph [0018], the invention is primarily concerned with merging data streams to create a presentation viewable in a web browser. In such an environment, a way is need to rapidly synchronize the slide presentation to the video.

This is achieved in accordance with the invention by displaying the video frames alongside the containers, which are associated with the slides, and dragging the slides along the timeline to the point where it is desired to generate synchronization markers. When the presentation is played back under the control of the thus generated synchronization file, the slides appear at the appropriate places in the video stream. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to more completely reflect this aspect of the invention.

The Examiner's primary reference is Purnaveja, which mainly concerned with providing an annotated video stream. The designer may view video frames in the window 720 (see

Figure 7, col. 6, line 65), to create timestamps, but there is no suggestion in Purnaveja of placing the video frames alongside the containers associated with slides to generate the synchronization markers. There is also no disclosure of the synchronization of presentation slides with the video stream.

The Examiner's secondary reference is Smith, but this also does not disclose placing the containers alongside the video frames and dragging them to the appropriate position to create a synchronization marker. The user has to view the video in a window and place a mouse over the appropriate slide when it is desired to create a synchronization marker. This does not provide such as precise placement as the claimed method.

Smith describes an alternative embodiment in Figure 8 (see col. 9, line 22 et seq.) wherein a streaming media file 202 is synchronized with several static media files. The applicants can however find no teaching in the discussion relating to this embodiment that the slides (or containers containing the slides are dragged along the video stream until the desired synchronization point is reached. The method of generating the relationships is described in the paragraph commencing at col. 10, line 55, and this involves placing the information about the files in a database.

With regard to claims 6 and new claim 12, neither of the prior art references discloses the "bulldozing effect" where the containers actually push along containers in front of them. In order for the containers to push containers in this way, they have to bump into them, that is have overlap time properties, and this feature is nowhere disclosed in the cited references. With regard to former claim 6, it is noted that the Examiner refers to col. 7, lines 20 – 27 of Purnaveja, but in the applicant's respectful submission this passage

merely discloses the use of separate time tracks. There is no disclosure that displacement of one indicia pushes other indicia along in front of it.

With regard to claims 4 and 11, neither of the reference discloses atoms displaceable within the containers, which in turn are displaceable relative to the video frames. The general reference to static media file at col. 3, line 24 et seq. does not constitute a teaching to incorporate atoms within the containers as claimed and as defined in the specification, and wherein the atoms are draggable within the containers (please see paragraph [0024].

It is believed therefore that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance, and allowance and reconsideration are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 34519
Richard J. Mitchell
Agent of Record

MARKS & CLERK
P. O. Box 957, Station B,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1P 5S7
(613) 236-9561